# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting September 11, 2013 MINUTES

**Location: Newton City Hall, Room 222** 

Present: Kirsten Tuohy, Matt Green, Joe DeVito, Tony Bibbo, Peter Harrington,

Terry Sack

Staff: Jennifer O'Leary

Guests: Tom Pomeroy, John Panica, David Sellers, Jaime Gaudet, Tasia Cerezo Interns: Hannah Lass, Eliza Beth, Jacob Prince, Winston Jiang, Hiroki Shibuya,

Sarah Moskowitz

The meeting was opened at 6:47 PM.

A vote to accept the minutes of June 12, 2013 was passed.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- The budget for FY 2014 is \$2,500

- Expenses to date include:

\$0.00

\$2,500.00 Balance

\$586.12 Revolving Account Balance

#### **Business:**

#### Update from the Mayor's Public Service Interns:

Over the summer:

- **Bullying** meeting with NNHS and NSHS, curriculum this year will be adjusted, different at each school, NTV wanted to give input that would help make curriculum relevant and interactive, both high schools did listen to student input as a piece of the changes they were making already
- **Tobacco** meeting with Health Commissioner, input about the age for tobacco sales being raised from 18 to 19 or 21, students felt that although this would not stop people from smoking, it would make it more difficult for young people to get tobacco, especially if surrounding towns were also putting this ordinance in place
- Youth Cards were printed on back of schedules at NNHS over the summer, the cards have resources such as the Youth Resource Guide, Interface Helpline and Riverside, great way to get resources into the hands of young people because the schedule cards are picked up by students all the time
- Recruitment of new members for NTV has started, NTV attended freshman club
  day at NSHS and will attend club days at both high schools for all grades, looking
  to get into advisory and homeroom, NTV student is speaking at reorientation for
  sophomores at NSHS, speak to leadership courses in both high schools, slides on
  TV's and projectors at high schools, recommend as a potential program to
  guidance counselors

#### CHNA 18 Grant:

- Health and Human Services submitted and received a grant over the summer for Youth Stress
- The Youth Commission, Newton Teen Voices, Newton Public Schools, Families for Depression Awareness, Engaging Minds, MSPP and The Youth Interagency Taskforce are all collaborative partners on the grant
- The grant is for \$10,000 per year, potentially renewable for three years and will fund programs and projects focused on Youth Stress based on the outcome of the Youth Summits and Action Groups held during the 2012-13 school year
- The first Youth Stress Focus Group will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm in Health and Human Services Dept. at City Hall

### Improbable Players:

- In June the Commission discussed wanting to start plans for this earlier in the school year
- Would like to reach both high schools if possible, at least North this year
- Would like to pick a show that is relevant to our teens, go see some shows before at other schools to pick
- Last year all juniors at south attended the show, was well received, very quiet in auditorium, students were engaged
- Timing of before junior semi was good

## Potential 2013-14 Projects:

- Youth/Adult Communication program from Youth Summit solutions list
- Improbable Players
- Teen Centers, it has been two years since they have closed, YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs have not seen a significant increase in numbers, wondering if there is an unmet need for a Center
- Needs Assessment discussion, Commission did an assessment through two high schools in 1996, would like to look at that document and revisit idea, would need to update and computerize it

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 2, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer O'Leary